

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CPR-02 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 071340Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3087

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAVELLING TO
EAST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 2146, DEC 18, 1973

1. DURING LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION WITH MISSION PROTOCOL
OFFICER MARCH 6, SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY
REPEATED STATEMENT HE MADE LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL) TO EFFECT
THAT EAST GERMAN GUARDS AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE HAD RIGHT TO
REQUIRE UNIFORMED ALLIED SERVICEMEN PASSING TO AND FROM
EAST BERLIN TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION CARDS. HE CITED
A RECENT BRITISH MISSION PROTEST ON THIS SUBJECT, AND
SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD NOT IN FUTURE BE ABLE TO
INTERVENE WITH GDR AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF ALLIES IN
SUCH CASES. WITHOUT SAYING THIS WOULD BE REGULAR
PRACTICE, ROMANOVSKIY DECLARED THAT IF EAST GERMAN GUARDS
ASKED ALLIED SERVICEMEN TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION CARDS, "IT
WOULD BE NECESSARY" FOR THEM TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST.
GDR, ROMANOVSKIY NOTED, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT
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ATTEMPTS OF EASTERN BLOC CITIZENS TO ESCAPE TO WEST

THROUGH CHECKPOINT CHARLIE WEARING ALLIED MILITARY UNIFORMS, AND REQUIREMENT TO PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION CARES ("SUCH A SMALL MATTER") WAS JUSTIFIABLE RESPONSE.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER REJECTED THIS POSITION, REMINDING ROMANOVSKIY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, UNIFORM IN ITSELF CONSTITUTED IDENTIFICATION FOR ALLIED SERVICEMEN. U.S. COULD NOT ACCEPT SOVIET ABNEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, AND INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED THAT GDR WOULD APPLY PRESSURE ON SOVIETS IN THIS DIRECTION IN EFFORT TO PUT END TO EXFILTRATION ATTEMPTS USING ALLIED MILITARY UNIFORMS. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF GDR PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES THAT SUCH EXFILTRATION ATTEMPTS INVARIABLE CAUSE FOR ALLIES, WE BELIEVE THAT PRESENT PROCEDURES FOR ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN MUST BE MAINTAINED IN TOTO IF LONG SLIPPERY SLOPE IS TO BE AVOIDED. TO THIS END, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, MISSION PLANS TO HAVE PROTOCOL OFFICER CALL SHORTLY ON SOVIET COUNTERPART ON INSTRUCTIONS TO CONFIRM AND REINFORCE EARLIER REJECTION OF SOVIET POSITION.KLEIN

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